2008-00845/

New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release
Communications New Brunswick

Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

Tobique First Nation chosen for pilot project (07/11/14)

NB 1476

Nov. 14, 2007

FREDERICTON (CNB) - Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Minister Ed Doherty, who is also Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, today congratulated Tobique First Nation on being chosen by Health Canada to participate in a two-year diabetes pilot project.

A commitment was made last year by the Government of Canada to develop the first-ever Patient Wait Time Guarantees for federally funded health services in First Nations communities specifically related to prenatal care and diabetes.

Doherty said he is especially pleased with the choice of Tobique First Nation, as he lobbied federal Health Minister Tony Clement by sending a letter in November 2006, asking that a First Nations community in New Brunswick be considered for this project.

"I recognize that Health Canada had a very challenging task choosing the reserves to participate in this pilot project from over 600 across Canada," Doherty said. "I am delighted that Tobique First Nation will be involved in this important initiative."

Tobique First Nation is the only community in the Atlantic region selected to participate in the diabetes pilot project.

"There are many health issues that need to be addressed within Canada's aboriginal communities, and this pilot project is a positive first step," the minister said. "To be a self-sufficient province, New Brunswick must also be a well province. By having timely access to health care, we can ensure that present and future generations of aboriginal people are on the path to healthy lifestyles."

07/11/14

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07/11/14

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